



ARPO NEWS

Association of Retired Police Officers
Costa Blanca South

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www.arpo.org.uk

Message from the Secretary

I thought we ought to put something in the newsletter about Fred and set things out for the run up to the AGM.

It is with regret I have to inform the members that following the summer ball at Che Tango Fred Wharton tendered his resignation as Chairman of ARPO. I think its fair to say for personal reason and we should accept it and not speculate as to the reasons why. In the mean time Keith Giles will take charge of things.

We have 3 months in the run up to the Christmas party which will be at Stan and Ollie's and will be organised by Jim and Linda Neville. My thanks go to them for taking this on as I am away for a couple of meetings and could not easily do the organising.

We have lunches arranged for September and October but we do need something for November.

Now would seem as good a time as any to tell you that I will be standing down as Secretary at the AGM. I joined ARPO in September 2003 and became Secretary in January 2004. Roy Coombes became chairman at the same time so although I was new to the job I had Roy's guiding hand plus that old ARPO stalwart Jim Wood was always on hand. So the situation of having a new Chairman and Secretary is not new and I am sure whoever takes on the rolls will have everyone's full support. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer must be retired Police Officers.

The other posts are co opted onto the committee and can be members who were not time served Police officers.

So we have a rallying call " ARPO needs you " *We need some new blood to carry on the traditions of ARPO. Please give this your best attention and if you feel you can fill a post when the nomination come out at the January meeting please sign up.*"

Meeting Report

Minutes of the June meeting of ARPO held At Sacko's Bar 10th June 2009 46 members present. Chairman opened the meeting at 10.40am

New Members introduced themselves Apologies were received from Andy and Sue Bassett. Bob Morgan. Derek Dunham. Phyllis Smith. Gerry and Frieda Lawson. George and Jackie Durno. Jean Evans. Brian and Trish Godfrey. David Dando.

Secretary's report.

Minutes of the May meeting were read out Proposed by Jim Wood seconded by Pat Bilbey as correct. There were no matters arising.

Treasurers report.

Opening balance was Euro 2273.45

Income : Angies books Euro 8.50. Raffle at Viva Espana 129 (profit of 79)
Total 137.30 Euros

Expenditure: Sub on Viva Espana 490 Euros. Raffle prizes 50 Euros. Payment for ARPO web site 25 Euros copying newsletter 2 Euros monthly draw 25 Euros
Total 592.30 Euros.

Cash in Bank 1327.36 Incl 3.07 Euros interest. Cash in Hand 261.18 Float 114.58 Euros : Total 1803.12 Euros. No matters arising.

Social functions.

Last month was Viva Espana. This month will be at Che Tango menus and money today please to Dreana Wharton.

The September lunch will be at Christopher's Restaurant Mar Azul arranged by Keith Giles please sign up today or in September but can Keith have the money at the September meeting.

Mike Peters then outlined details of a possible coach trip to a vine yard in Jumilla.

Any other business.

Jim Wood passed on details following the Death of Tony Darwin who was a founder members and the first chairman. Then read out two e mails from two former members who wished to send their condolences. One from Eric Sayle in Preston Lancs He and wife Joan coming up to their 50th wedding anniversary and are planning a trip to Barbados. The other one from Keith Dean who now lives in Greenboro North Carolina USA. Both are regular viewers of our web site and wished everyone well in the future

Then read out a letter from L&A solicitors in La Marina who had responded to a question raised by Pat Stephens last month on the subject of Driving Licences Their then followed a discussion about different experiences people had had over their respective Licences.

Residencia. Linda Neville reported that Rojales now come under Orihuela Costa and they had renewed their Residencia at the town hall there and how simple the process was.

If you don't come under Orhuela Costa you need to go to the National Police Office in Elche. Then followed a discussion on whether you can keep you old Residencia card. Normally you can not as it has an expiry date. As an alternative you can get your passport reduced to the same size as the Residencia card which means you don't need to carry your original passport.

Jim Wood then raised the question off us not breaking or two months but carrying on. Pointed out this was raised last year at the AGM and we voted to carry on as we are with a break.

The 25 Euro draw was won by number 32 Malcolm Coleman

Chairman closed the meeting at 11.20am.

September ARPO Function

This will be held at Christopher's Restaurant, Marazul

Wednesday 23rd September 2009 Lunch 1.00 for 1.30

Starters

Chef's Home-made Soup of the Day
Deep Fried Brei with Sweet Chilli Jam
Rustic Duck & Green Peppercorn Pate with Wholemeal Toast
Cajun Chicken Salad with Mango Dressing

Main Course

Chicken Breast with Champagne Sauce
Oven Baked Salmon with Lemon & Dill Dressing
Prawn Pasta Arrabbiatta
Beef Cooked in Burgundy

all the above served with Parsley New Potatoes & Vegetables
of the Day

A Choice of Desserts on the Day

Glass of Wine, Small Beer or Soft Drink

Price Euros 15.50

Members wanting to sign up for this function may do so at the September meetings. Otherwise please contact Hennie with numbers and menu requests.

Regarding to the questions you have asked us, please find below information we have acquired;

- If you are a resident in Spain, your driving license does need to show a Spanish address
- When you reach 70 years of age it is possible to change to a Spanish driving license, you will need to renew it every two years and you will need to take an aptitude test.
- if you already possess a driving licence issued by a Member State, you are no longer required to exchange it if your residence is in a Member State other than that which issued your licence. But you may ask to exchange it if you wish. However if you already possess a driving licence issued by a Member State, but it is about to expire you must renew it by applying to the appropriate authorities of the Member State in which you are normally resident.

Medical and Driving Licence

At the last meeting which seems a very long time ago someone said you did not need a medical for renewing your D/L. During the break I have renewed mine and the first thing they wanted was the medical certificate.

If you go on line and Google www.DGT.es it will translate everything and there is a lot of info on there. Did you know at the bigger G C stations or the green police as they are called have a senior officer whose job it is to review the ticket and the fine and if incorrect issue a refund or scrap the ticket.

The web site is in Spanish of course but if you right click on the web page you are given an option to translate the page using Google Translate. This option applies to any foreign language web site.

Crime Reports and Denuncias

One problem with wishing to make an insurance claim following a crime is the fact that you need to report this to the police by way of a denuncia. Besides the problem of needing a fluent Spanish speaker in the event that your own Spanish is not up to scratch an additional problem arises. The main police offices in Torrevieja is extremely busy and queuing can take several hours.

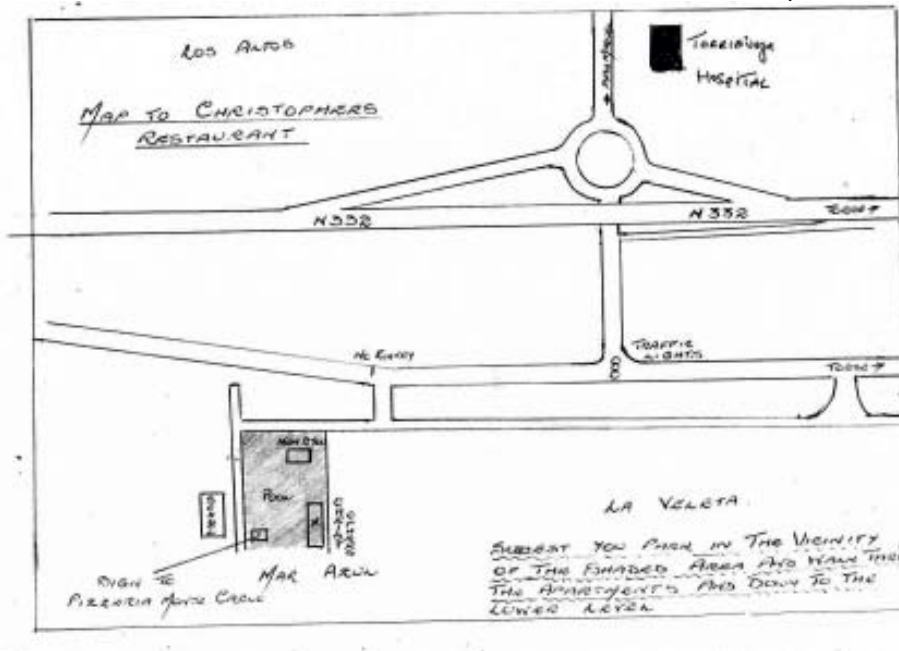
The answer to this is that you can make the report at any police station in the country so why not visit San Miguel and save a lot of time!

Dual Taxation

George Patterson recently discovered that his tax office in UK had made an error in his tax allowances. If you have your O.A.P paid directly into Spain and you are between the ages of 65 and 75 then most likely your tax code will be 703 when it should be 749. If this affects you then write to your Tax Office and they will adjust accordingly saving you paying tax on your OAP.

Driving in Spain

We recently requested clarification of some issues regarding licenses for driving in Spain and here is the response from the solicitors.



This newsletter is printed to provide information and every effort is made to ensure accuracy. All planned and future events contain contact details of the organiser(s) and they should be contacted direct for up to date information